FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
15-34	ORLEANS	B	EAS.66

NR HD 1999

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*:
Eastham Center

Address: 90 Samoset Road

Historic Name: Earl E. & Lois M. Rider House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1873

Source: deeds

Style/Form: Second Empire/two-story block

Architect/Builder: Earl E. Rider, probable builder

Exterior Material:
Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard & wood shingle/wood

Roof: wood & asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Barn (connected)

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:
none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

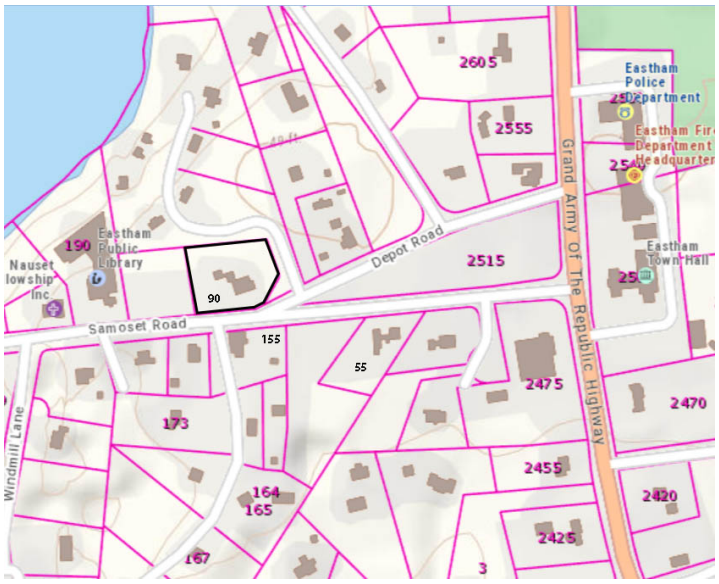
Acreage: 0.75

Setting: The house is situated in the town center at the western end of Windmill Park.

Photograph

View from

Locus Map (north at top)



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Earl E. & Lois M. Rider House, built ca. 1873, is a two-story, wood frame single dwelling with its upper story contained in a steep-pitched mansard roof. The front façade contains a center entrance flanked by windows on the first story and two dormers in the mansard aligned with the windows below. A veranda fronted by turned posts with scroll-sawn braces spans the front and wraps around both ends. The short end walls contain two windows on the main floor and one dormer centered in the mansard. Original two-over-two wood sash appear intact. A narrow one-story wing with a shed roof spans the rear façade and projects from the northwest corner and behind the west side of the veranda where a door is located. It connects to a one-story gabled wing with a chimney, presumably the location of the kitchen. A one-story hyphen connects the kitchen ell with a small domestic barn with a gable roof and a wagon bay on one side covered by a hanging-track door. There are doors and windows on the rear walls of both the kitchen and barn.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In April and May 1872, Elijah E. Knowles of Eastham sold two parcels along Depot and Samoset Roads to Earl E. and Lois M. Rider of Middleboro. The April deed, to Lois, was 0.75 acre at the intersection of Depot Road and King's Highway; the May deed, to Earl Rider, was for three acres bounded on the north by Long Pond, on the south by Samoset Road, on the west by the pond and William H. Nickerson's land, and on the east by Knowles's land and the homestead of George Leonard. Rider, a carpenter and renowned bridge and wharf builder, built the houses at 10 Depot Road and 90 Samoset Road. The 90 Samoset Road house is similar in most details to the house Rider had built for himself at 8 Elm Street in Middleboro (MID.347) in 1869.[1] Rider and his wife Lois sold the 10 Depot Road house in 1878 and lived at the 90 Samoset Road at least seasonally until 1895.

Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Earl Etson Rider (1813-99) married Maine native Lois M. Rice in Boston in 1860, and by 1865 he was living in Barnstable and described as a "master builder" in the census. Cape newspapers often reported on his activities—supplying chestnut poles for the Old Colony Railroad, piles for wharves, and pounds for Cape fishermen in 1878; building an addition to the Pacific Guano Works in Woods Hole in 1879; designing a new railroad depot for Middleborough in 1883; rebuilding the railroad bridges at Truro and Titicut in 1884; cutting wood for and building a 700-foot wharf at Dennis's Nobscusset House in 1889. In the 1890s Rider built bridges at Cohasset Narrows and across Boat Meadow in South Eastham and rebuilt the railroad wharf at Hyannis.[2] He was an avid gunner and fisherman and might have chosen Eastham for that reason.

In 1895 Rider sold 90 Samoset Road to Thomas C. Nickerson (1847-1909), an Eastham native then living in Orleans.[3] The son of Myrick Doane Nickerson and his wife Roxana Horton, Thomas Nickerson grew up in the Eastham home of his grandfather, Samuel Nickerson, and married Wellfleet native Emma Southward in 1871. In 1880 he was a fisherman living near his father with his wife and their young son Walter Forbes, but he was listed as a guide in the 1900 Eastham census. For some years Nickerson was a guide for and caretaker of the Nauset Marsh cottage of Boston-area artist Frank Weston Benson (1862-1951), who prepared both a watercolor and an etching of "Old Tom" in the 1920s, well after Nickerson's death. In 1900 Nickerson's father Myrick, then seventy-four years old, was listed as a cook; he had earlier been a steward at Eastham's French Cable Station and, according to the Barnstable Patriot, "a popular caterer for the club houses in town." Myrick Nickerson died in 1907,

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[1] Elijah E. Knowles to E. E. Rider, Middleboro, 27 May 1872, BCD 113:300; *Barnstable Patriot*, 4 May 1869, 2, from the Middleboro Gazette, reported that Rider, "the architect," was then building a "neat and ornamental house" for himself in Middleboro; the 1874 map of that town attached his name to the 8 Elm Street house.

[2] See "Earl E. Ryder," *Boston Journal*, 12 August 1899, 2, for background on him; whether he was related to the Eastham Ryders is not yet known. On his building activities see *Yarmouth Register*, 9 March 1878, 2, and 31 March 1883, 1; 7 May 1892, 5; 13 May 1893, 8 (on Boat Meadow bridge); *Barnstable Patriot*, 23 December 1879, 2; 15 July 1884, 4; 26 arch 1889, 2; 15 September 1891, 2.

[3] E. E. Ryder, Middleboro, to Thomas C. Nickerson, Orleans, 21 September 1895, BCD 224:485. Rider had mortgaged the 90 Samoset Road property to John G. M. Gill in 1885 and had defaulted in 1888, but he bought the property at public auction in the same year. See BCD 167:258, 167:268, and 167:269.

and his son died suddenly two years later, while driving a team back from the Nauset Life Saving station for his son Walter (1874-1952), then also a club house caretaker.[4]

In October 1909, six months after his father died, Walter Nickerson sold his father's homestead parcel "together with a Dwelling House a stable and sheds all attached, also three hen houses standing thereon" to George D. Dyke of Mattapan.[5] Born in Chelsea, George Darwin Dyke (1855-1915) was a partner in the public weighing firm of Dyke, Shute and Company; his father, George Edward Dyke, was in the same occupation as member of the firm Sivret and Dyke, on Boston's Central Wharf. In 1887 he married Maria Eugenie Curtis of Abington, and by 1910 the couple had five children—Curtis D., George E., Mildred, Julia, Etta, and Mary. The family used 90 Samoset Road as a summer home, sometimes spending only weeks and sometimes the entire season in Eastham.[6] After George D. Dyke's death the family continued to use the house seasonally, and at some point the widowed M. Eugenie Dyke moved to 90 Samoset Road year-round. As she aged, she began to spend winters with her children off Cape, and she died 28 January 1937. On 1 February five of her children deeded their interest in 90 Samoset Road to their brother George Edward Dyke (1892-1986).[7] George E. Dyke had been an advertising salesperson for Condé Nast in New York City in 1917 but had become a stockbroker by 1920. He kept the property for seven years and in 1944 sold the four-acre parcel and its buildings to Homer S. and Johanna J. Smith of Hillside, New Jersey.[8]

Homer S. Smith was a German immigrant who came to the United States between 1935 and 1940 from Wurtemberg; his wife Johanna was also from Germany. In the early 1940s Smith was a radio salesman, and the Elizabeth, New Jersey, directory for 1947 noted that he had "removed to Massachusetts." In 1966 Johanna Smith subdivided the property and set off the larger part as a site for cottages along the southeastern shore on Long Pond. In 1972 Smith sold 0.75 acre and the house to Noel M. and Elizabeth M. Tipton of Westfield, New Jersey, who sold it eleven years later to Hugh J. W. Daugherty. Daugherty was the owner of record in 2020.[9]

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MAPS
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Hales, John G. *Plan of Eastham and Orleans*. 1831.
Walling, Henry F. *Map of the Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Massachusetts Based upon the Trigonometrical Survey of the State*. New York: D. R. Smith and Co.,1858.

[4] *Barnstable Patriot*, 11 April 1893, 3; "Eastham: Sudden Death of T. C. Nickerson," *Hyannis Patriot*, 12 April 1909, 4.
[5] Walter F. Nickerson, administrator estate Thomas C. Nickerson, Eastham, to George D. Dyke, Mattapan, 4 October 1909, BCD 298:475.
[6] See, for example, *Barnstable Patriot*, 22 July 1912, 4; 7 October 1912, 4; 15 September 1913, 4; 13 July 1914, 4; *Yarmouth Register*, 12 June 1930, 6; 14 June 1934, 9.
[7] Curtis F. Dyke, Detroit MI; Mary Etta W. Maharan, Hartford CT; Julia E. Wilson and Mildred Knowles, Eastham; and Mary E Hall, Harwich, to George E. Dyke, Ossining NY, 1 February 1937, BCD 526:86.
[8] George E. Dyke, Ossining NY, to Homer S. and Johanna J. Smith, Hillside NJ, 21 July 1944, BCD 616:4111.
[9] Johanna Smith to Noel M. and Elizabeth M. Tipton, Westfield NJ, 5 October 1972, BCD 1746:228; Noel M. and Elizabeth M. Tipton, Westfield NJ, to Hugh J. W. Daugherty, 27 December 1983, BCD 3985:344. See "Plan of Land in Eastham," July 1937, BCP 70:13, and "Subdivision Plan of Land in Eastham as Surveyed for Johanna Smith," June 1966, BCP 205:97.

Continuation sheet 2

Official Topographical Atlas of Massachusetts Compiled and Corrected by H. F. Walling and O. W. Gray. Boston: Stedman, Brown and Lyon, 1871.

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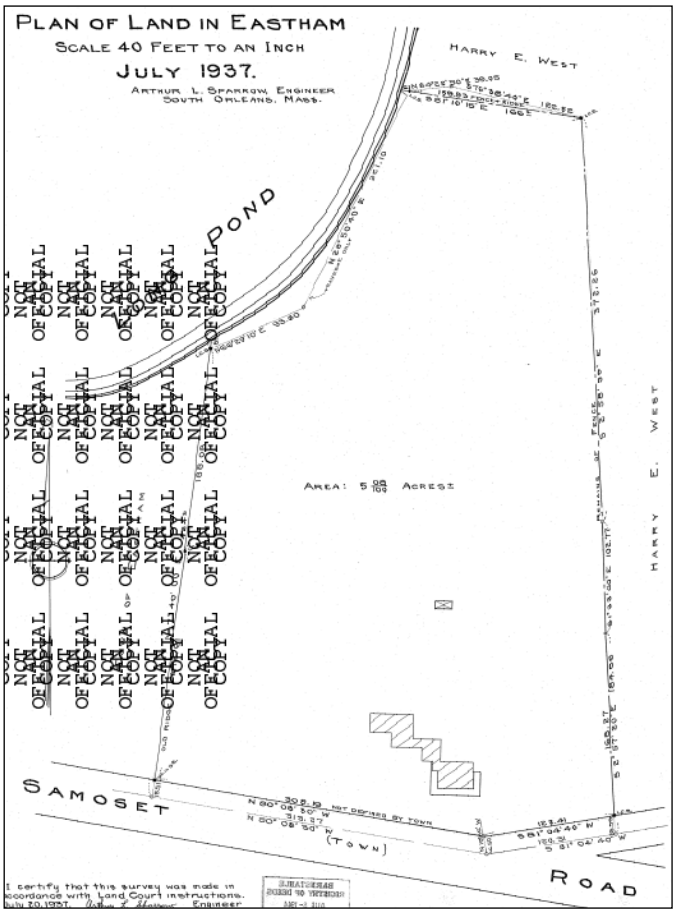
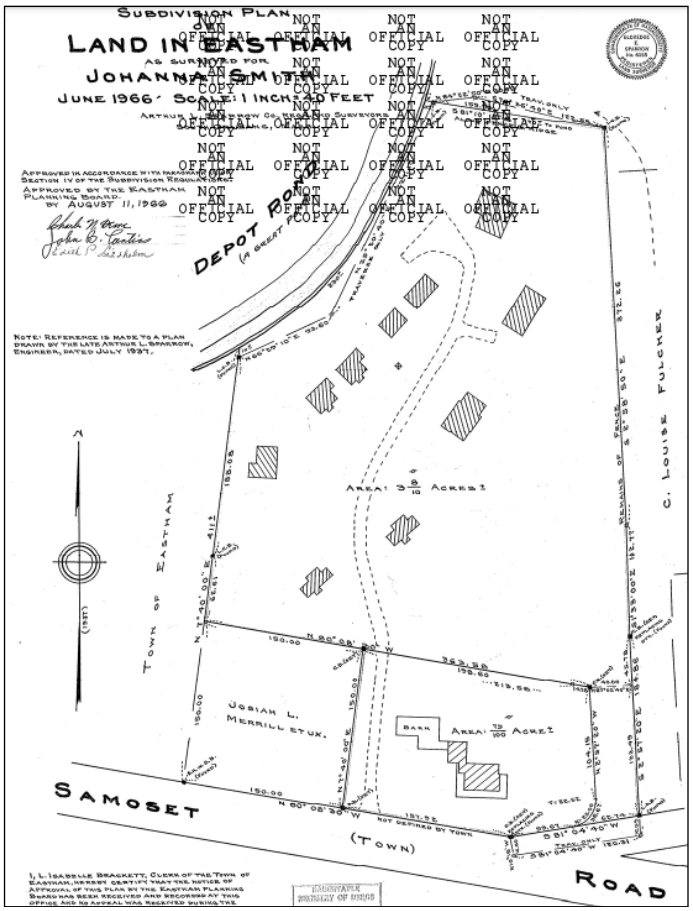
SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES





The 1937 plan of 90 Samoset Road (left) shows the house and its ells on an undeveloped five-acre lot (BCP 70:13); in 1966 Johanna Smith set the house off on three-quarters of an acre while most of the parcel was developed with cottages along Long Pond (shown as "Depot Pond") and a drive through her house lot from Samoset Road (right; BCP 205:97). The parcel marked Josiah L. Merrill is now a parking lot for Eastham Public Library.

PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)

View from SW.

View from north.